

WELCOME TO VANDERBILT LAW SCHOOL

JD

VLS ORIENTATION



2023

Welcome from the Dean

Welcome to Vanderbilt Law School!

Student Orientation Week marks the start of your legal education at Vanderbilt. Your first law class, Life of the Law, will introduce you to some foundational concepts that you will encounter throughout your legal education (and beyond).

We aspire to ease you into law school this week, but we want to be clear from the outset that we have very high expectations of you both inside and outside the classroom.

As lawyers, you will be charged with upholding the rule of law and safeguarding our adversarial system of justice. To carry out this important responsibility, you need to commit as law students to embrace arguments with an open mind; to listen, discuss, and debate in a civil and respectful manner; and to give one another the benefit of the doubt as you discuss and debate some of society's most vexing and contested issues.

We want each of you to flourish while you are here (and after you leave!). Take good care of yourselves and one another.

Sincere regards,

Chris Guthrie
Dean and John Wade-Kent Syverud Professor of Law



Your Orientation Schedule

Saturday
August 12

Welcome Reception

4:30pm - 6:00pm Vanderbilt Law School North Lobby/Main Street

We invite you to join us and meet your classmates as well as staff and faculty. Light food and drinks will be served as we celebrate the start of your Vanderbilt Law School experience.

Sunday
August 13

I'll Take You There: Exploring Nashville's Social Justice Sites

Registration Required: visit our [Orientation website](#)

10:00am - 12:30pm Front Lobby of VLS

OPTIONAL

In conjunction with volunteers from the rising 2L and 3L classes, the Law Students for Social Justice Organization, the George Barrett Social Justice Program, and the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Community are coordinating optional student-led tours during the week of orientation for incoming students. The tours will be based on the guidebook "I'll Take You There: Exploring Nashville's Social Justice Sites," which all students attending the tour will receive, courtesy of Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity and Community Yesha Yadav. The book provides historical background and context to many frequently visited sites in Nashville and also highlights lesser-known places with histories of significance in struggles for racial and social justice in the city.

Public Service Orientation

Registration Required: visit our [Orientation website](#)

OPTIONAL

Public Service, Pro Bono, and the Legal Profession

1:30pm - 1:50pm Flynn Auditorium

An overview of the public responsibilities of lawyers, the access to justice gap, the history of service at Vanderbilt and the Pro Bono Pledge.

Breakout Sessions on Pro Bono in various practice areas

2:00pm - 3:00pm Rooms to be provided during previous session

Topics for discussion may include: Who are the individuals or entities served by this project or organization? What are their legal needs? What kinds of tools do attorneys use to meet those needs (i.e. litigation, transactional work, administrative/regulatory advocacy)? What opportunities are there for Vanderbilt students to get involved?

Your Orientation Schedule

Monday

August 14

Visit Check-in Table

Continental Breakfast in North Lobby

8:00am - 8:30am
Main Street

Welcome & Orientation Overview

Chris Guthrie, Dean & John Wade-Kent Syverud Professor of Law
Chris Meyers, Assistant Dean and Dean of Students
Jasmin Felton, Director of Academic Life

8:40am - 9:25am
Flynn Auditorium

Envisioning Our Community

Dr. Ashley Brown, Director, Student Center for Social Justice & Identity

9:25am - 11:10am
Flynn Auditorium

Co-Counsel Circuit Lunches

LUNCH PROVIDED

11:20am - 12:20pm
Pick up in North Lobby and meet in assigned areas

Building Our Community Together: The Student Experience

A panel of VLS students discuss their experiences moderated by Dean Yesha Yadav, Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity and Community

12:30pm - 1:30pm
Flynn Auditorium

Caring for Our Community

Dr. Ashley Brown, Director, Student Center for Social Justice & Identity

1:40pm - 2:40pm
Flynn Auditorium

Ice Cream Social

Come enjoy some Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream before you head out with your Co-Counsel Circuits

2:50pm - 3:50pm
Blackacre Courtyard
OPTIONAL

Office Hours with Student Life

Jasmin Felton, Director of Academic Life
Chris Meyers, Assistant Dean and Dean of Students

2:50pm - 3:50pm
Main Street
OPTIONAL

Explore Nashville with your Co-Counsel Circuits

Co-Counsel Circuit leaders will schedule small group events

After 4pm
Scheduled by your Circuit President
OPTIONAL

Your Orientation Schedule

Tuesday

August 15

Ethics, Accountability, and the Profession

Jasmin Felton, Director of Academic Life

Chris Meyers, Assistant Dean and Dean of Students

Miles Brinkley, Honor Council President

8:30am - 9:30am

Flynn Auditorium

Life of the Law

See personalized Life of the Law schedule on [Orientation website](#)
or pg. 9/10 of schedule

9:40am - 10:40am

Check Room Assignment on Life of Law Schedule

Girl Walks Out of a Bar

A conversation with author Lisa F. Smith

LUNCH PICK UP BEGINS AT 11:10AM

11:20am - 12:20pm

Flynn Auditorium

Life of the Law

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12:30pm - 1:30pm

Check Room Assignment on Life of Law Schedule

Co-Counsel Coffee Hour

Meet fellow Circuit members and leaders for coffee and ask questions or just take a break while browsing our Resource Hub on Main St.

1:30pm - 2:20pm

North Lobby

OPTIONAL

Resource Hub in North Lobby

Join us on main street to learn about VU and community resources available to you.

1:30pm - 2:20pm

North Lobby

OPTIONAL

Public Interest Drop-in

Students interested in public interest can join Assistant Dean Beth Cruz for coffee while getting all your questions answered. Coffee available for pick up on Main Street before heading to Alexander Room.

1:30pm - 2:20pm

Alexander Room

OPTIONAL

Project Safe @ Vanderbilt

Cara Tuttle Bell, Director, Project Safe Center

2:30pm - 3:30pm

Flynn Auditorium

Library Tour

30-minute tour and overview of services. Multiple opportunities available to attend.

3:40pm - 4:10pm

Library Service Desk

OPTIONAL

A Law Student's Walking Guide to the Rest of Campus

Led by Ambassadors of VLS. Multiple opportunities available to attend.

3:40pm - 4:10pm

Front Lobby of VLS

OPTIONAL

Yoga on the Lawn

Join our VBA Wellness Chair for yoga with certified instructor and 2L, Sophia Howard!
Bring your own mat, extras will be available.

6:00pm - 7:00pm

Meet at VLS Back Doors (V Doors)

Yoga will be at Curry Field

OPTIONAL

Your Orientation Schedule

Wednesday

August 16

J.D. Class Photo

Please arrive no later than 8:15am

8:15am
Front Steps of VLS

Life of the Law

See personalized Life of the Law schedule on [Orientation website](#)
or pg. 9/10 of schedule

9:00am - 10:00am
Check Room Assignment on Life of Law Schedule

Financial Aid Overview

Jeffrey Hanson, Ph.D., Jeffrey Hanson Education Services

10:10am - 11:40am
Flynn Auditorium
Mandatory for all loan recipients

Library Tour

30-minute tour and overview of services

10:30am - 11:00am
Library Service Desk
OPTIONAL

A Law Student's Walking Guide to the Rest of Campus

Led by Ambassadors of VLS. Multiple opportunities available to attend

10:30am - 11:00am
Front Lobby of VLS
OPTIONAL

Office Hours with Student Life

Jasmin Felton, Director of Academic Life
Chris Meyers, Assistant Dean and Dean of Students
Meg Phillips, Director of Academic Success

10:30am - 11:30am
Main Street
OPTIONAL

Lunch: On Your Own

ONElevate cohort reminder - lunch pick up on Main St. and meet in Alexander Room (invitation only)

Life of the Law

See personalized Life of the Law schedule on [Orientation website](#)
or pg. 9/10 of schedule

1:10pm - 2:10pm
Check Room Assignment on Life of Law Schedule

Conversations with Your Career Counselors

Meet the Career Services team and learn more about how they will support you during your time at VLS

2:20pm - 3:20pm
Flynn Auditorium

Soccer Scrimmage

Led by the Vanderbilt Law Soccer Club

6:00pm - 8:00pm
Vanderbilt Rec Center, Field 4
OPTIONAL

Your Orientation Schedule

Thursday

August 17

Life of the Law: Becoming a Happy & Healthy Law Student and Lawyer

Chris Meyers, Assistant Dean and Dean of Students

Beth Cruz, Assistant Dean and Martha Craig Daughtrey Director for Public Interest

8:30am - 9:30am

Flynn Auditorium

Life of the Law

See personalized Life of the Law schedule on [Orientation website](#)
or pg. 9/10 of schedule

9:40am - 11:10am

Check Room Assignment on Life of Law Schedule

Lunch: Provided

Pick up lunch on Main St. and enjoy lunch with new classmates and friends

11:20pm - 12:20pm

Pick Up on Main St.

Life of the Law

See personalized Life of the Law schedule on [Orientation website](#)
or pg. 9/10 of schedule

12:30pm - 2:00pm

Check Room Assignment on Life of Law Schedule

Book Order Pick-up

2:00pm - 3:30pm

Ray Room

OPTIONAL

Office Hours with Student Life

Jasmin Felton, Director of Academic Life

Chris Meyers, Assistant Dean and Dean of Students

Meg Phillips, Director of Academic Success

2:00pm - 3:00pm

Main Street

OPTIONAL

Library Tour

30-minute tour and overview of services

2:30pm - 3:00pm

Library Service Desk

OPTIONAL

A Law Student's Walking Guide to the Rest of Campus

Led by Ambassadors of VLS

2:30pm - 3:00pm

Front Lobby of VLS

OPTIONAL

Explore Nashville with your Co-Counsel Circuits

Co-Counsel Circuit leaders will schedule small group events

As Scheduled

OPTIONAL

Orientation: Legal Writing Day

Please check your **fall schedule** to ensure you know which Legal Writing section (A = A1 & A2, B = B1 & B2, C = C1 & C2) you are in.

Each section has different room assignments on Friday.

Friday

August 18

Introduction to Legal Writing and the Paradigm

Jennifer Swezey, Associate Professor of Law, Director, Legal Research & Writing

8:30am - 9:00am

Flynn Auditorium

Legal Writing: How Attorneys Communicate

Amy Enix, Instructor in Law, Assistant Director, Legal Research & Writing

Michaela Strout, Instructor in Law

Daniel Fernandez, Instructor in Law

9:00am - 10:00am

Section A: Moore Room

Section B: Renaissance Room

Section C: Bennett Miller Room

Probable Cause for Brunch: You're Almost Done with Orientation Week!

Join us for brunch as we celebrate the last day of orientation

10:00am - 11:00am

North Lobby

Legal Writing: Small Section Introductions (A1, B1, C1)

Legal Writing Instructors (and Research Librarians)

11:10am - 12:00pm

A1: Moore Room

B1: Renaissance Room

C1: Bennett Miller Room

Introduction to the Bluebook and Citation (A2, B2, C2)

Legal Writing Instructors (and Research Librarians)

11:10am - 12:00pm

A2, B2, C2: Flynn Auditorium

Break

Legal Writing: Small Section Introductions (A2, B2, C2)

Legal Writing Instructors (and Research Librarians)

12:10pm - 1:00pm

A2: Moore Room

B2: Renaissance Room

C2: Bennett Miller Room

Introduction to the Bluebook and Citation (A1, B1, C1)

Legal Writing Instructors (and Research Librarians)

12:10pm - 1:00pm

A1, B1, C1: Flynn Auditorium

Life of the Law Assessment

Exam open for 4 hours; you have 2 hours to complete once you begin

1:30pm - 5:30pm

Take Home/Flynn Auditorium available

Life of the Law: Tuesday & Wednesday Schedule

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Tuesday 9:40am - 10:40am | Circuits 1&2 | Circuits 3&4 | Circuits 5&6 | Circuits 7&8 |
| | Reading Our Case Together for Class | Designing Law School Success | A Law Student's Guide to Doing 1L | Practicing Law for the Greater Good |
| | Moore Room | Renaissance Room | Bennett Miller Room | Covington Room |
| Tuesday 12:30pm - 1:30pm | Circuits 1&2 | Circuits 3&4 | Circuits 5&6 | Circuits 7&8 |
| | Practicing Law for the Greater Good | Reading Our Case Together for Class | Designing Law School Success | A Law Student's Guide to Doing 1L |
| | Covington Room | Moore Room | Renaissance Room | Bennett Miller Room |
| Wednesday 9:00am - 10:00am | Circuits 1&2 | Circuits 3&4 | Circuits 5&6 | Circuits 7&8 |
| | A Law Student's Guide to Doing 1L | Practicing Law for the Greater Good | Reading Our Case Together for Class | Designing Law School Success |
| | Bennett Miller Room | Covington Room | Moore Room | Renaissance Room |
| Wednesday 1:10pm - 2:10pm | Circuits 1&2 | Circuits 3&4 | Circuits 5&6 | Circuits 7&8 |
| | Designing Law School Success | A Law Student's Guide to Doing 1L | Practicing Law for the Greater Good | Reading Our Case Together for Class |
| | Renaissance Room | Bennett Miller Room | Covington Room | Moore Room |

Life of the Law:

Thursday Schedule

